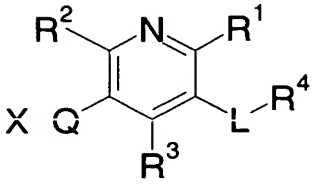
Claims

1. A compound represented by the formula



wherein

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group;

R^3 is an optionally substituted aromatic group;

R^4 is an optionally substituted amino group;

L is a divalent chain hydrocarbon group;

Q is a bond or a divalent chain hydrocarbon group; and

X is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted cyclic group;

provided that

when X is an ethoxycarbonyl group, then Q is a divalent chain hydrocarbon group, and that the compound is not 2,6-diisopropyl-3-methylaminomethyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-pentylpyridine;

2,6-diisopropyl-3-aminomethyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-pentylpyridine;

2,6-diisopropyl-3-(dimethylamino)methyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-pentylpyridine;

2,6-diisopropyl-3-(ethylamino)methyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-pentylpyridine; and

3-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxymethyl)-2,6-diisopropyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(indolyl-5-aminomethyl)pyridine,

or a salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, and X is a cyano group, a nitro group, an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group or an optionally substituted cyclic group.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein the acyl group for X is a carboxyl group.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is a C_{1-10} alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C_{3-10} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C_{1-6} alkoxy group.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^3 is a C_{6-14} aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s) and a halogen atom.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^4 is an amino group.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein L is a C_{1-10} alkylene group.

8. The compound of claim 1, wherein Q is a bond.

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein X is an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group or an optionally substituted amino group.

10. The compound of claim 1, wherein X is a carboxyl group.

11. The compound of claim 1, which is 5-(aminomethyl)-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-6-neopentylnicotinic acid;
5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)nicotinic acid;
methyl 3-{[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]methoxy}-1-methyl 1H pyrazole-4-carboxylate;
{[2-isobutyl-6-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-5-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)pyridin-3-yl]methyl}amine;
methyl 3-({[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]acetyl}amino)benzoate;
N-[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide,
or a salt thereof.

12. A prodrug of a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

14. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 13, which is an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes, diabetic complications, impaired glucose tolerance or obesity.

15. A peptidase inhibitor comprising a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

16. The inhibitor of claim 15, wherein the peptidase is dipeptidyl dipeptidase-IV.

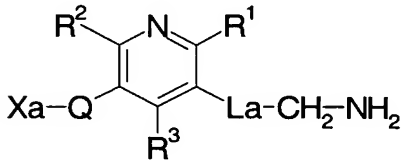
17. Use of a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof for the production of an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes, diabetic complications, impaired glucose tolerance or obesity.

18. Use of a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof for the production of a peptidase inhibitor.

19. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes, diabetic complications, impaired glucose tolerance or obesity in a mammal, which comprises administering a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof to the mammal.

20. A method of inhibiting peptidase in a mammal, which comprises administering a compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof to the mammal.

21. A production method of a compound represented by the formula



(I-a)

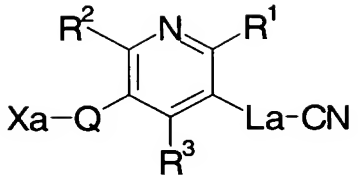
wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3 and Q are as defined in claim 1;

La is a bond or a divalent chain hydrocarbon group; and

Xa is a hydrogen atom, a nitro group, an acyl group, a substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted thiol group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted cyclic group;

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a compound represented by the formula



(II)

wherein each symbol is as defined above, or a salt thereof to a reduction reaction.